

#### REMARKS

Claims 1 and 6-9 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 over Gagnon et al.

A reveal strip, as that term is used by those skilled in the art, is a strip of material that is attached to an existing concrete floor slab for the purpose of creating an impression or void in the surface of a concrete tilt-up panel that is formed on top of the concrete floor slab. Claim 1 includes the steps of applying a layer of adhesive material to a length of reveal strip and placing the adhesive-coated reveal strip on a layer of adhesive on a concrete releasing agent. The double-sided adhesive strips 16 of Gagnon et al might be considered functionally equivalent to a layer of adhesive material, but Gagnon et al only teaches that this material should be applied to the base strip 10 (which is not a reveal strip) and not to a releasing agent that has been applied to the concrete floor 16. Thus, Gagnon et al does not disclose or suggest the step of placing an adhesive-coated reveal strip on a layer of adhesive on a concrete releasing agent.

Claim 1 specifies steps of applying a coating of a releasing agent to a horizontal surface and applying a layer of adhesive material to the coating of releasing agent. Gagnon et al does not disclose or suggest applying a layer of adhesive material to a coating of releasing agent. Rather, Gagnon et al discloses use of double-coated adhesive tape to attach an object to a raw concrete surface.

The examiner appears to assert that it would have been obvious to apply a releasing agent to the concrete surface of Gagnon et al to facilitate re-use of the base strip 10 and brackets 12. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Generally, a releasing agent is applied to the floor surface before setting up the panel forms in order to prevent the subsequent layer of concrete from adhering to the floor surface when it cures. The prior art of record does not disclose that a releasing agent is used to prevent other objects from adhering to a concrete

surface. If a person of ordinary skill in the art wished to prevent the base strip 10 from adhering to the concrete floor 14, the most obvious expedient would be to omit the strips 16. It would not have been advantageous to modify the method disclosed by Gagnon et al by applying a release agent to the concrete surface over the area in which the base strip 10 is to be applied or located, because this would prevent a temporary bonding of the base strip 10 to the concrete surface by the double-sided adhesive tape.

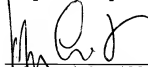
Generally, the releasing agent will defeat the adhesion of the double-sided adhesive tape because most release agents contain petroleum distillates, which are known to attack the adhesive material used in the manufacture of double-sided adhesive tape and cause a failure of adhesion, especially in wet, cold or hot weather. Consequently, the method described by Gagnon et al is not suitable for use over a concrete floor upon which a release agent has been previously applied.

Applicant discloses and claims that a layer of adhesive is applied both to the coating of releasing agent and to the length of reveal strip. Gagnon et al does not disclose or suggest applying a layer of adhesive material to the concrete floor 14.

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that the subject matter of claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by Gagnon et al. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable, and it follows that the dependent claim 6 also is patentable.

The arguments presented above in support of claim 1 are also applicable to claim 7. Therefore, claim 7 is patentable and it follows that the dependent claims 8 and 9 also are patentable.

Respectfully submitted,



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